

Commissioners agree to help at wellness center

By Karen Krien
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The organizer of the wellness center in Bird City was present at the Monday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting.

Rod Klepper, Bird City, reported on the plans for the wellness center being built near the grade school. First of all, he said thank you for the county's road and bridge crew and equipment used to move dirt. He said he was asking the county for \$1,000 from the Special Parks and Recreation Fund.

He already had pledges including \$20,000 from the Century II Development; \$20,000 from the Cheylin Recreation Commission; \$20,000 from the Cheylin Schools; and \$5,000 from the Bird City Dairy. He has also talked to other entities which give money.

Mr. Klepper estimated that the total cost would be \$100,000 with much of the labor being done by volunteers and Cheylin construction classes.

The commissioners voted to give Mr. Klepper \$1,000 for the wellness center.

Road and bridge report

Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, had prices for the new grader to replace the grader with 17,000 hours. For a 2010 Caterpillar with trade-in was \$169,460 with Foley Equipment, Colby. The grader has a 5-year warranty but, Mr. Flemming said, doesn't have as much power.

Three of the graders owned by the county have already had transmissions replaced. The commissioners suggested that Mr. Flemming see what it would cost to replace the grader that had not had the transmission replaced. Perhaps there would be a better price break if the commissioners purchased two graders.

Mr. Flemming said he had enough money in his budget to purchase the new grader(s).

Noxious weed department report

Justin Lohr, noxious weed supervisor, had the figures on what it would cost to spray for weeds on the sides of the roads along Lawn Ridge road south of St. Francis.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said he had read in the fair board minutes that there was trouble with weeds and stickers around the exhibit building. This building is rented for large gatherings.

Mr. Lohr had suggestions, noting that even if he sprayed the area, it was also important that

the area be mowed regularly. The commissioners thought that the fair board needed to hire someone to do the mowing. If Mr. Lohr did the spraying, the fair board should buy the chemicals.

They agreed that Mr. Lohr should talk to Drew Flemming, board member, and also attend a fair board meeting.

Mr. Lohr said he hadn't had much luck concerning farmers in the Big Timber area, north of Bird City, to consent to aerial spraying for noxious weeds. He had also contacted landowners who are having problems with prairie dogs. He said all but one had agreed to treat their own dogs.

County attorney's report

Kari Gilliland, county attorney, introduced Karan and Joni Thadani, the new lawyers in the Jim Milliken Law office. Mr. Thadani had been sworn in as the assistant county attorney on Friday.

Danielle Gardner, the secretary in the county attorney's office, will be leaving at the end of the month. Mr. Thadani has been interviewing applicants.

Mike Callicrate, local feedyard owner, had called Mrs. Gilliland about a resolution concerning coordination to big government out of the local community. She said she had been unable to study the information and hadn't talked with Mr. Callicrate in depth about the matter. The commissioners agreed that they didn't want to rush into something that they were not fully informed of.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he felt that the resolution would let the county have input upfront, not at the end.

Dale Patton, commissioner, referred to Logan County where People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) was dumping prairie dogs on natural grassland. The dogs travel and it wasn't long before they were on neighboring grounds which were privately owned. This county had used the coordination resolution and had worked well for them.

Mrs. Gilliland said she would have more information on coordination at the next meeting.

Mr. Beikman asked about the flood plain plan required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency but there was no additional information.

Two people had made applications for Rural Opportunity Zone school loan re-payment help... but more

information was needed. Terry Miller, clerk, will make some phone calls.

Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator, had contacted Mrs. Gilliland and Mr. Patton to tell them that the Good Samaritan Society, owner of the nursing home, would replace the new heating and cooling system.

Emergency medical service director's report

Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, had the write-offs of \$2,752 which the commissioners approved.

She said her computer is six years old. The county's auditor said she needed to upgrade the computer which will cost \$1,473. The auditor recommended a program. She has the money in her budget to cover the costs of the upgrade and program.

She was given permission to attend a regional meeting in Hoxie. She will also be gone Oct. 27 through the 30th.

Mrs. Bowers will also hire someone to cover for her when she needs to be gone.

Appraiser's report

Bruce Webb, appraiser, reported his computer needed updated especially with the new Orion program. Clerk Terry Miller had helped him find a computer for \$850. He will continue to use the same screen and has the money in his budget to make the purchase.

Mr. Webb was given permission to hire a full-time person in the office.

In other business

- The commissioners agreed that Mary Morrow, register of deeds, could attend a meeting in Colby.

- Janice DeGood, St. Francis, was hired as the full-time dispatcher. Lori Knebel was appointed as the assistant dispatcher.

Executive sessions

Three executive sessions were called during the commissioners' meeting. Mrs. Bowers called one which was extended to 15 minutes to discuss "matters of a third party." No decision was made coming out of the session.

Mr. Flemming called a 10 minute session to discuss personnel. No decision was made.

Mr. Webb also called 10 minutes to discuss personnel. No decision was made.

Next meetings

The next regular meeting is set for 8 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.

Cougar Tales

The end of the first grading term is past and we are beginning our second term that will end on Dec. 22. A lot has happened since my last column and I will attempt to update you on some important events since last spring.

As many of you know, two fine educators retired from Cheylin Schools in May of 2011. Kathy Weber and Ken Hankins retired at the end of last year. We will miss them and their many years of experience they brought to our staff. We wish them well in their retirement and know they will enjoy this time.

Since we are always looking at ways to reduce our budget expenses, we did not rehire for these two positions, but elected instead to move two present staff members into our second and third grades. Janice Churchwell who was junior high math, science, and language arts teacher moved into the third grade position and Emily Bolen, who was in charge of our migrant and English Language Learners programs, moved in to the second grade position. Elaine Marcuson has taken on most of the migrant and English Language Learners duties of working with the students and Susan Jensen has taken on the paperwork and scheduling. Blanca Ponce and Jeri Antholz continue to provide services to this group of our student body.

Our teams have done exceptionally well this fall. Our volleyball team recently completed their season with a great record. Our Lady Cougars were a formidable opponent and on any night had the ability to beat any other team. We are proud of our ladies and will miss Forrest Burr as she completes her senior year. Thanks to all our team members and to our coaches, Cristi Antholz and Amy McCarty, for making us proud to be a Cheylin Cougar!

Our football men are having a great season this year. So far we are 7-1 and are set to be District Champions! We have one game left with Triplains/Brewster and then hope to host a Bi-District game at home the first round. Thanks to all our members, especially to our seniors, Ethan Young, Jeremiah White, Cory Rucker,

Austin Manners, Noah Jones, Wil Orten, Dalton Magnani, and to our coaches Max Keltz, Dennis Hengen, and Anthony Blair. No matter what happens for the rest of the season, they have provided us with an exciting football season.

I continue to be amazed with the giving of our community to our school. Last week we finished the installation of a new sound system at the football stadium. We added a new amplifier, CD/iPod deck, a wireless mic that we can use on the field, and wireless speakers on the visitor side of the field. Most of the cost of the system was financed by a generous contribution from the senior class of 2011 and from the Cheylin Booster Club. The senior class of 2011 also donated all the money to run the new sidewalk/sitting area in front of the junior high and high school building. This is a great place for the students to be outside over lunch and just 'hang out' during nice weather when they are not in class.

Another exciting project that is underway is our new Community Wellness Center which will be located south of the grade school. We should begin foundation work within the next week. This project is a combination of the work of many people and will be funded by various groups within our community. Cheylin Schools will own and maintain the building but it is open for any community member to use. The building will be 40- by 80-feet and will be used for a weight room and work-out facility. Our rough construction class will provide much of the labor to build the center with other local talent contributing as well. What a great show of our community and school working together to benefit everyone. Our plan is to have the center ready for the fall 2012 school term. So far Cheylin Schools, Century II, and the Recreation Commission, Bird City Dairy and some individuals have contributed finances.

With all the uncertainty of the new finance proposal by Governor Brownback, I will wait until things are a little more clear before tackling the update on the budget. Hopefully in the near future we will have a better picture of the proposal and I will share what we

know with you at that time.

It is great to work at Cheylin Schools and we thank all students, staff, and community members for the many contributions to our school. Without you, our success would be much more difficult.

Until next time.
Bruce Bolen
Superintendent/principal,
Cheylin Schools

Weather affects tomatoes

Backyard gardeners with home grown tomatoes still ripening on the vine are cautioned about cooler, fall temperatures and frost, said Karen Blakeslee, K-State Research and Extension food scientist.

Tomatoes from dead or frost-killed vines can be eaten safely when fresh or frozen for future meals, but should not be considered candidates for home canning, said Ms. Blakeslee, who explained that the acid content in tomatoes from dead or frost-killed vines drops below a safe-to-eat level that cannot be corrected by adding extra acid.

The best tomatoes for home canning are those that are firm, disease-free, and preferably vine-ripened, he said.

Green tomatoes (picked before a frost) can, however, be home canned using the same recommendations for red (or any other color) tomatoes, she said, who advised home food preservationists to follow tested recipe directions exactly and to use bottled lemon juice, citric acid or vinegar with 5 percent acidity to acidify the tomatoes safely.

More information on safe food preservation in the home is available at K-State Research and Extension offices throughout the state and online: www.ksre.ksu.edu and www.rrc.ksu.edu and the USDA's "Complete Guide to Home Canning."

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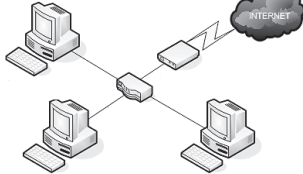
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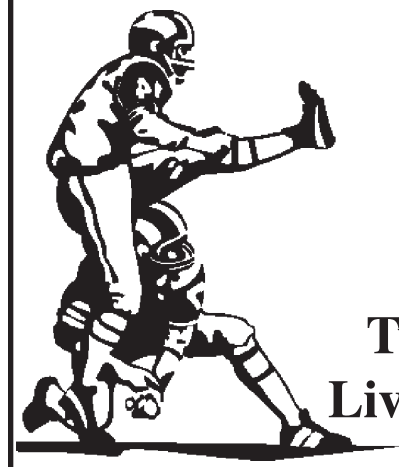


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